



ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR  
ROCCO J. CLAPS, DIRECTOR

P R E S E N T S

**SUMMER OF HATE:**

## **THE 1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT**

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIBRARY

### ***SUMMER OF HATE***

EXPLORING SPRINGFIELD'S RACISM  
AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION THAT  
UNDERMINED LAW AND ORDER AND  
SET THE STAGE FOR MOB RULE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

PROGRAM AT NOON

EXHIBIT FROM 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

***SAVE THE DATE:*** Friday, May 9, 2008  
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Michael Bilandic Building  
Chicago, Illinois

Join IDHR and James W. Loewen, author of Sundown Towns: a Hidden Dimension of American Racism, for a lecture on the untold history of the racial oppression and housing discrimination that drove hundreds of minority populations out of towns across the United States.

**W**ITHIN HOURS OF A REPORTED RAPE ON A WHITE WOMAN BY A BLACK MAN, HUNDREDS TOOK TO THE STREET IN FIERCE MOB ACTION AGAINST **BLACKS** IN **SPRINGFIELD**.

**T**HOUGH THE WOMAN CONFESSED TO LYING ABOUT THE INCIDENT, THE BLACK CARETAKER WAS JAILED AND AWAITED TRIAL BY AN ALL-WHITE JURY.

**T**HE VIOLENCE THAT HELD SWAY IN THE CITY FOR SEVERAL DAYS, RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF TWO BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND FOUR WHITE MEN. **BUSINESSES OWNED BY BLACKS AND JEWS WERE DESTROYED, HOUSES WERE BURNED AND HUNDREDS WERE INJURED BEFORE 4000 STATE MILITIAMEN INTERVENED.**

**T**HIS EPISODE SERVED AS A RALLYING CAUSE IN FOUNDING THE **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)**. HOWEVER, ISSUES OF BRUTALITY AND SEGREGATION SUCH AS LYNCHING AND SUNDOWN TOWN POLICIES CONTINUED FOR DECADES FOLLOWING THE RIOTS.

**T**ODAY EXHIBITS, SUCH AS **SUMMER OF HATE** AND JAMES LOEWEN'S BOOK **SUNDOWN TOWNS**, ARE EXAMPLES OF THE EFFORTS THAT SPUR DIALOGUE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST PREJUDICE, REMINDING US THAT WE MUST NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF ALMOST A CENTURY AGO.